

§ 757.3

Secretary of Defense under the Federal Claims Collection Act.

(b) *Statute of limitations.* Subject to specific provisions in other statutes, there is a general 3-year statute of limitations on affirmative Government tort claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2415(b).

[72 FR 53427, Sept. 19, 2007]

§ 757.3 Regulatory authority.

The regulations published in 31 CFR Chapter IX control the collection and settlement of affirmative claims. This section supplements the material contained in those regulations. Where this section conflicts with the materials and procedure published in 31 CFR Chapter IX, the latter controls.

[57 FR 5072, Feb. 12, 1992, as amended at 72 FR 53427, Sept. 19, 2007]

§ 757.4 Claims that may be collected.

(a) *Against responsible third parties for damage to Government property, or the property of non-appropriated fund activities.* It should be noted, however, that as a general rule, the Government does not seek payment from service members and Government employees for damages caused by their simple negligence while acting within the scope of their employment. Exceptions to this general policy will be made when the incident involves aggravating circumstances.

(b) *For money paid or reimbursed by the government for damage to a rental car in accordance with the Joint Federal Travel regulations (volume 1, paragraph U 3415-C and volume 2, paragraph C 2101-2).* Collection action shall be taken against third parties liable in tort. Collection action shall not be taken against Government personnel who rented the vehicle.

(c) *Other claims.* Any other claim for money or property in favor of the United States cognizable under the Federal Claims Collections Act not specifically listed above.

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§ 757.5 Assertion of claims and collection procedures.

(a) *General.* The controlling procedures for administrative collection of

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claims are established in 31 CFR part 901.

(b) *Officials authorized to pursue claims.* The Judge Advocate General; the Deputy Judge Advocate General; any Assistant Judge Advocate General; the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims and Tort Litigation) are authorized to pursue and collect all affirmative claims in favor of the United States, except in countries where another service has single service responsibility in accordance with DoD Directive 5515.8.

(c) *Dollar limitations.* All of the officers listed in § 757.5(b) are authorized to compromise and terminate collection action on affirmative claims of \$100,000.00 or less.

(d) *Determining liability.* Liability must be determined in accordance with the law of the place in which the damage occurred, including the applicable traffic laws, elements of tort, and possible defenses.

(e) *Assertion of a claim.* (1) Assertion of the claim is accomplished by mailing to the tortfeasor a "Notice of Claim." The notice is to be mailed certified mail, return receipt requested, and should include the following information:

(i) Reference to the statutory right to collect;

(ii) A demand for payment or restoration;

(iii) A description of damage and estimate of repair;

(iv) A description of the incident, including date and place; and

(v) The name, phone number, and office address of the claims personnel to contact.

(2) See also 31 CFR part 901.

(f) *Full payment.* When a responsible party or insurer tenders full payment or a compromise settlement on a claim, the payment should be in the form of a check or money order made payable to "United States Treasury." The check or money order shall then be forwarded to the disbursing officer serving the collecting activity for deposit in accordance with the provisions of the Navy Comptroller Manual. For collections for damages to real property, the collection is credited to the account available for the repair or replacement of the real property at the